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BOX PATENT APPLICATION
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Re: Application of **Jean-Charles MERCIER** and **Stephane FERON**

**A WIND-POWER GENERATOR POD CONSTITUTED BY THE BODY
OF AN ELECTRICITY GENERATOR**
Our Ref. Q60439

Dear Sir:

Attached hereto is the application identified above including 5 sheets of the specification, claims and abstract, and 1 sheet of formal drawing. The executed Declaration and Power of Attorney and Assignment will be submitted at a later date. Also enclosed is the Information Disclosure Statement.

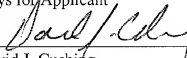
The Government filing fee is calculated as follows:

Total claims	7 - 20	=	0	x	\$18.00	=	\$00
Independent claims	1 - 3	=	0	x	\$78.00	=	\$00
Base Fee							\$690.00
TOTAL FEE							\$690.00

A check for the statutory filing fee of \$690.00 is attached. You are also directed and authorized to charge or credit any difference or overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 and any petitions for extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 which may be required during the entire pendency of the application to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. A duplicate copy of this transmittal letter is attached.

Priority is claimed from September 1, 1999 based on French Application No. 9910974. The priority document is enclosed herewith.

Respectfully submitted,
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A WIND-POWER GENERATOR POD CONSTITUTED BY THE BODY OF AN
ELECTRICITY GENERATOR

The invention relates to a pod for a wind-power
generator, the pod being constituted by a rigid fairing
5 in which at least one electricity generator is placed for
the purpose of being coupled to at least one wind-driven
propeller.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The fairing in a pod of that type is normally made
10 of composite material or of metal and requires special
adaptations to cool its internal elements such as the
electricity generator. In particular, it is conventional
to provide systems for ventilating the inside of the pod,
thereby complicating its structure and increasing its
15 weight.

OBJECT AND SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The object of the invention is to remedy that
drawback.

According to the invention, the rigid fairing of the
20 pod is formed by the body of the generator in which a
stator and a rotor are mounted. This generator body can
advantageously contain the gearing of the gearbox and the
mechanism for steering the pod, thereby making the pod of
the wind-power generator more compact. This simplifies
25 installing the wind-power generator. In addition, this
arrangement makes it possible to use the fairing of the
pod as a heat exchange surface for cooling the generator
and the gearbox. Since the propeller is mounted at the
rear of the pod, the wind which drives the propeller of
30 the wind-power generator flows over the body of the
generator, thereby improving heat exchange when the
generator is in operation.

To maintain laminar flow over the entire length of
the pod for the wind driving the propeller, provision can
35 advantageously be made for the rigid fairing of the pod
to be surrounded by a tubular sleeve forming a
substantially annular passage for air along the pod.

To further increase heat exchange between the stator and the fairing of the pod, provision can be made for the fairing of the pod to be an interference fit on the stator of the generator. This arrangement also
 5 reinforces the mechanical cohesion of the elements mounted inside the pod and reduces vibration phenomena.

The flow of hot air created by the rotation of the rotor is advantageously directed towards the inside surface of the fairing of the pod via lateral openings
 10 extending right through the stator.

In a particular embodiment of the pod of the invention, the generator is coupled to the propeller via an epicyclic gearbox having inlet and outlet shafts that are on the same axis, thus enabling the propeller to be
 15 mounted directly on the outlet of the shaft of the generator. This arrangement also contributes to reducing the number of gear wheels in the gearbox.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

The wind-power generator pod of the invention is
 20 described below in detail with reference to the sole figure which shows it in highly diagrammatic manner as mounted at the top of a mast.

MORE DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The highly diagrammatic figure shows part of a wind-power generator comprising a pod 1 mounted to swivel at
 25 the top of a vertical mast 2.

As can be seen in the figure, the pod 1 is substantially cylindrical in shape extending along an axis of revolution A that is perpendicular to the mast 2.

An electricity generator constituted by a stator 3
 30 and a rotor 4 (shown in part in the figure above the axis A) is mounted inside the pod and is coupled to at least one propeller such as 5 via an epicyclic gearbox (stepdown gearbox) 6.

The rigid outer fairing 7 of the pod is formed by the metal body of the generator. It is surrounded
 35 coaxially by a tubular sleeve 8 which forms an annular

passage for the wind V driving the propeller 5. The end of the sleeve 8 facing the wind V is flared in this case and the propeller 5 is mounted at the back of the pod relative to the wind direction so as to maintain a degree of stability in the flow of air along the passage formed by the sleeve 8. The gearbox 6 is mounted inside the fairing 7 and the propeller 5 is fixed directly to the outlet of the shaft, thereby simplifying mechanical assembly and in particular simplifying coupling between the generator and the gearbox.

The sleeve 8 can be held at a distance from the fairing 7 by means of supporting cross-members such as 9.

The system 10 for steering the pod is shown as being integrated in the top of the mast 2, but it equally well be located inside the pod 1 which would contribute to simplifying installation of the wind-power generator.

The fairing 7 is advantageously an interference fit on the stator 8 and lateral openings 11 pass right through the stator so as to direct the hot air created by rotation of the rotor against the fairing 7 so that said hot air is cooled by flowing along the fairing 7 which acts as a heat exchanger with the air on the outside of the pod.

CLAIMS

- 1/ A wind-power generator pod constituted by a rigid fairing in which at least one electricity generator is disposed for coupling to at least one wind-driven propeller, wherein the rigid fairing of the pod is formed by the body of the generator in which a stator and a rotor are mounted.
- 2/ The pod according to claim 1, in which the rigid fairing of the pod is surrounded by a tubular sleeve forming a substantially annular air passage along the pod.
- 3/ The pod according to claim 1, in which the fairing of the pod is an interference fit on the stator of the generator.
- 4/ The pod according to claim 1, in which lateral openings extend right through the stator.
- 5/ The pod according to claim 1, in which the generator is coupled to the wind-driven propeller via an epicyclic gearbox.
- 6/ The pod according to claim 5, in which said gearbox is mounted inside said rigid fairing.
- 7/ A wind-powered generator comprising a pod according to claim 1 and mounted to swivel at the end of a mast.

A B S T R A C T

- 5 The pod of wind-powered generator is constituted by a rigid fairing in which at least one electricity generator for coupling to at least one wind-driven propeller is disposed. The rigid fairing of the pod is formed by the body of the generator in which there are mounted a stator and a rotor, thereby simplifying the structure of the pod.

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